

Water Quality Protection Division

Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 9**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: May 12, 2010

Reporting Period: May 12, 2010 1300 – May 13, 2010 1300

Situation Status:

NOAA forecasts created on 5/11/10 at 2000 CDT for 5/12/10 at 1800 CDT forecasts the oil slick to remain southeast of the Mississippi Delta with portions of the slick behind the north end of the Chandeleur Islands and west of the Isles Dernieres. Satellite imagery analysis performed by NOAA and NASA on 5/11/10 shows the slick is southeast of the Delta, behind the Chandeleur Islands and south of Terrebonne Bay. NOAA predicts that the oil south of Terrebonne Bay could be carried as far west as Atchafalaya Bay by Thursday.

Figure 1: NOAA Oil Slick Estimate provided in NOAA situational report for Deepwater Horizon incident at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>

Monitoring and Assessment

- No updates for today.

Drinking Water

- No updates for today.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service helicopter surveys have reported approximately 200 meters of shoreline oil impacts on Whiskey Island. Oil was also spotted on Raccoon Island and the western shoreline of South Pass.
 - TE-27 Whiskey Island Restoration, TE-50 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation, and TE-53 Enhancement of Barrier Island Vegetation Demonstration are all CWPPRA projects located on the island. **These projects are all sponsored by the EPA.**
 - Planting activities associated with TE-50 and TE-53 are currently ongoing
 - Contact Brad Crawford (214-665-7255) for any questions regarding TE-27 and TE-50.
 - Contact Ken Teague (214-665-6687) for any questions regarding TE-53.
 - Collaborating with our state agency partner to determine if any of these projects have become impacted.
 - CWPPRA project TE-48 is located on Raccoon Island (NRCS Sponsored)
 - MR-09 Delta Wide Crevasses project boundary is South Pass. Unknown if oil impacts are within project area.
- It is anticipated that there may be other shoreline impacts to several projects in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins, including several EPA projects. As more information becomes available, this list could change.

Barrier Islands

- PO-27, Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (NMFS Sponsored)
- TE-18, Timbalier Island Planting Demonstration (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-20, Isles Dernieres Restoration East Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-24, Isles Dernieres Restoration Trinity Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-27, Whiskey Island Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-37, New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-45A, Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-48, Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-50 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-52 Barrier Island Vegetation Demonstration (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-67, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 1 (NMFS sponsored)
- TE-67B, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 2 (NMFS sponsored)

Headlands

- TE-23, West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (USACE Sponsored)

Marsh

- MR-09, Delta Wide Crevasses (NMFS sponsored)

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Coastal Habitat Impacts

OW Ecological Impact Team:

- Ongoing discussions regarding the combined OW, Region 6, and Region 4 ecological impacts document for use by OW managers, as well on worst case scenarios. The human health worst case scenario and risk assessment has been pulled out into a separate effort.
- Ongoing consultation to OW regarding ecological impact issues for the working set of ecological impact Q's and A's for EPA managers.

Plaquemines Parish Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Ongoing coordination and analyses with OW, Region 6, and Region 4 regarding the coastal protection plan ("the Plaquemines Plan," "the Dutch Solution").
- Participated in an interagency discussion by conference call, hosted by the New Orleans Corps District's Regulatory Office, regarding the regulatory, administrative, engineering, and ecological considerations of the concept. No specific proposal has been provided in enough detail for an in-depth review, though numerous generic characterizations were offered. EPA provided an outline of initial concerns to the federal partners, prepared in consultation with OW. An interagency meeting with the Parish is planned for 5/14/10.
- Continuing coordination with the Corps regarding CWA 404 and CWA 404(b) General Permit for Emergency Operations

National Estuary Programs (NEPs):

- OW will conduct a briefing for all Gulf NEP Directors on 5/13/10 regarding Gulf monitoring coordination. The conference call will cover current and planned monitoring by NEPs, as well as opportunities for coordinating efforts and resources.

Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Ongoing consultations with both the New Orleans and Galveston Corps Districts regarding maintenance dredging and dredged material management options for major navigation projects, focusing particularly on the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River.

Texas Coastal Impact Coordination:

- Ongoing consultations regarding ongoing coastal habitat protection and restoration projects and programs with Texas General Land Office, Coastal Projects Division.

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Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Surface Water Center ongoing GIS/data analysis efforts include mapping areas of tidal influence in support of monitoring potential inland oil movement.
- A map of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone with the location of the oil plume is also being prepared.

NPDES

- Continuing coordination with 6WQ, 6EN, 6RC, and HQ staff on NPDES permitting questions asked by BP regarding oil recovery dome and relief well operations.
- Refining list of facilities that have cooling water intakes in Region 6. Contact lists would be used to identify and provide information (including threat updates) and technical assistance to more vulnerable facilities with industrial water intakes (non-drinking water).
- NPDES Permits and TMDLs Branch stands ready to provide technical assistance as needed.